

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VICTOR 00163 022203Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00

EB-04 IGA-01 SP-02 EUR-08 ARA-06 PM-03 DODE-00

/055 W

-----022209Z 039386 /73

R 012045Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 301

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 163

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS :PFOR, EAID, PINT, US, SE

SUBJ: FARWELL TALK WITH MANCHAM

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. AT HIS REQUEST, I PAID OFFICIAL FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT MANCHAM THIS MORNING (1 APRIL) IN LOUNGE OF 747 EN ROUTE NAIROBI-VICTORIA. TOASTING EACH OTHER'S COUNTRIES WITH ORANGE JUICE, MANCHAM PHILOSOPHIZED THAT CHINESE AND RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN SEYCHELLES HAS CHANGED ATMOSPHERE OF ISLAND. OF COURSE, THEY ARE WELCOME, HE ADDED, REFERRING TO COUNTRY'S POLICY OF OPENNESS. SHIFTING GEAR, HE STATED: WE WELCOME U.S. FUNDS FROM TRACKING STATION, BUT WHAT IS BADLY NEEDED IS DEVELOPMENT AID: LOW-COST HOUSING IS PARTICULARLY NEEDED.

COMMENT: MANCHAM RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH ME ON MY FEBRUARY 77 VISIT; AND NAIROBI-BASED AID HOUSING OFFICER NEIL GOODSON VISITED SEYCHELLES 24-31 MARCH: CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT REPORTED BY SEPTTEL), SEYCHELLES NEEDS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR ITS FUTURE TO BE SECURE, MANCHAM STRESSED, REITERATING HIS LEANING TOWARD THE WEST AND EXPLAINING THAT HE WISHED TO SEE A "BALANCE OF POWER" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. SEPARATELY, MANCHAM WORRIED OVER REQUEST FOR CHILEAN

NAVAL RESEARCH VESSEL VISIT TO VICTORIA, AND SURROUNDING CRITICISM. WHY, HE ASKED, WHEN THE RUSSIAN NAVY VESSELS WILL BE ALLOWED TO VISIT SEYCHELLES, SHOULD HE NOW BE CRITICIZED REGARDING CHILE? COMMENT: I MADE NONE, BUT WE SHOULD BE ALERTED TO PROBLEMS ARISING IN FUTURE RE SHIP/AIRCRAFT VISITS BY OTHER THAN UK/US COUNTRIES. THIS WAS FIRST I HAD HEARD OF PLANNED RUSSION SHIP VISITS, FOR EXAMPLE. WE HAVE DUMPED THIS PROBLEM ON BRITISH, BUT IT IS - AND WILL BE - OURS AS WELL. (I SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED ABOVE CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH HICOM PUGH DURING CALL IN VICTORIA)

3. MANCHAM CONTINUES HIS TRAVELS ABROAD IN PROMOTION OF THE ISLANDS OF LOVE. HIS EFFORTS ARE BEING REWARDED - AND ENCOURAGED: HE BEAMED - AS HE TOLD ME HIS EXCELLENCIES CLUB IS PRESENTING HIM WITH AWARD OF THE YEAR AT MAXIM'S ON MAY 5 FOR GREATEST JOB OF PR IN 1976.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE HIS PENCHANT FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL (THIS WAS HIS 11TH OVERSEAS TRIP SINCE INDEPENDENCE 9 MONTHS AGO) MANCHAM DISPLAYS AURA OF SECURITY ABOUT HIS OWN POSITION AND OPTIMISM ABOUT FUTURE OF SEYCHELLES AND CONTINUED SUCCESS OF COALITION GOVERNMENT.

MARSHALL

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NNN

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